

RINSATE BLANK CONTAMINATION ASSESSMENT

The rinsate blank associated with a given set of field samples should be identified and labeled utilizing the sample identification protocols defined in the DRBC letter requesting sampling for the Stage 2 PCB TMDL.

The criteria presented below are set as an interim goal for evaluating rinsate blank contamination and may be reevaluated after the initial Stage 2 data set has been collected. An overall assessment of the rinsate blank results with respect to the associated field sample and method blank results will be conducted to determine if excessive contamination occurred from poor sampling or handling procedures.

Rinsate blank contamination acceptance rules:

- An individual congener cannot exceed 40 pg/L
- If a congener exceeds 40 pg/L and the associated sample concentration exceeds 3× the amount in the blank, then no action is required
- If a congener exceeds 40 pg/L and the congener is not found in the associated field sample, then no action is required
- The total PCB concentration cannot exceed 600 pg/L

If rinsate blank levels violate the rinsate blank contamination rules the source of external contamination should be investigated and eliminated, if possible. Furthermore, resampling and reanalysis may be required at the discretion of the DRBC.